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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/689,703	10/22/2003	Hiroko Mogi	244211US6	4653
22850	7590	01/22/2007	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.			TRAN, NHAN T	
1940 DUKE STREET			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			2622	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	01/22/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/689,703	MOGI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Nhan T. Tran	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 October 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 22 October 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 12/17/2003 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Specification

3. The title of the invention (Video Camera) is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gelbard (US 6,927,797 B2).

Regarding claim 1, Gelbard discloses a video camera (HD video camera shown in Fig. 1; col. 1, lines 4-8) comprising:

a camera body (Fig. 1, camera body 10) to image an object (col. 3, lines 3-8, wherein an object image is captured by an inherent image sensor of the HD video camera through lens 14);

a viewfinder (20) removably installed (Figs. 1-3) on the camera body to display an image picked up by the camera body (col. 3, lines 30-56 in which an image is displayed by a viewing module 38 by means of CRT 40), the viewfinder (20) including a display unit (a viewing module 38 having a CRT 40) to display an image thereon, and a mounting member (dovetail slot member 120 shown in Fig. 2) removably installable to a finder fixture (dovetail slot member 118 shown in Fig. 1, wherein the dovetail slot member 120 is removably installable thereon) on the camera body so that the display unit is pivotably installed on the camera body (see col. 6, lines 40-59 and col. 3, lines 42-55, wherein the viewing module 38 of the viewfinder is pivotably installed and moved with respect to the camera body by pivot member 20 and locking mechanism 30);

the camera body having provided thereon an accessory-part fixture (video input port on the camera body for attaching video cable plug 126 as shown in Figs. 1 & 2) for fixing an accessory part (video cable 124) to the video camera (see col. 6, lines 49-56).

Regarding claim 2, Gelbard further discloses that the finder fixture (dovetail slot 118) is provided at the front side of the camera body (see Fig. 1) and has removably

installed thereto an arm member (e.g., rod 108 shown in details by Fig. 9) extending from the front to rear side of the camera body (see Figs. 1 & 9, col. 6, lines 40-46, and it is noted that the arm member 108 is removable from the dovetail slot 118 by unscrewing the crews on the dovetail slot 118); and the display unit is removably installed to the arm member (Figs. 1-3 & 9 and col. 6, lines 40-56, wherein the viewing module 38 is removably installed to the arm member via the dovetail slot 120 of the viewfinder).

Regarding claim 3, as also clearly shown in Fig. 2, the display unit is removably installable (by attaching/detaching the video cable plug 126) to the accessory-part fixture (video cable port on the camera body). See col. 6, lines 49-56.

Regarding claim 4, Gelbard clearly shows, in Fig. 2, that at least the display unit (viewing module 38) has auxiliary screw provided thereon (note screws shown on top of the viewing module 38).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Muramatsu Akihiro (JP 09-127429).

Regarding claim 5, Muramatsu discloses a magnifier (the eyepiece section of viewfinder containing a magnifying lens 5 having polarizing plate 6 pasted thereon as shown in **Fig. 6**, abstract and paragraphs [0020] & [0026],) comprising:

a magnification lens (magnifying lens 5) provided in a viewfinder (Fig. 6) to magnify an image displayed on a display unit (liquid crystal panel 1; see abstract, paragraphs [0020] & [0026]);

a polarization filter (polarizing plate 6) provided on an optical path of the magnifier (Fig. 6 and paragraph [0026] in which the polarizing plate 6 is pasted on the optical path of the magnifier), and wherein the magnifier is removably installable to the viewfinder (as apparently shown in **Figs. 2, 6 & 8**, the magnifier comprising both magnifying lens 5 and polarizing plate 6 pasted thereon is removably installable to the viewfinder by attaching/detaching the eyepiece section from the main body of the viewfinder as illustrated in the drawings).

Regarding claim 6, Muramatsu discloses a viewfinder (Fig. 6; abstract and paragraphs [0020] & [0026]) comprising:

a display unit (liquid crystal panel 1) having a display screen (liquid crystal screen) to display an image (see Fig. 6 and [0020] & [0026]);

and a magnifier (the eyepiece section as discussed in claim 5) having a magnification lens (magnifying lens 5) to magnify an image displayed on the display screen, the magnifier having a polarization filter (polarizing plate 6) provided on an optical path thereof (see Fig. 6 and paragraphs [0020] & [0026]).

Regarding claim 7, as clearly shown in Figs. 2, 6 & 8 of Muramatsu, the magnifier is removably installable to the display unit (by attaching/detaching the eyepiece section to/from the main body of the viewfinder which contains the display unit).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 8 & 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gelbard (US 6,927,797 B2) in view of Muramatsu Akihiro (JP 09-127429).

Regarding claim 8, Gelbard discloses a video camera (HD video camera shown in Fig. 1; col. 1, lines 4-8) comprising:

a camera body (Fig. 1, camera body 10) to image an object (col. 1, lines 4-9 and col. 3, lines 3-8, wherein an object image is captured by an inherent image sensor of the HD video camera through lens 14);

a viewfinder (20; Figs. 1-3 and col. 3, lines 30-56), the viewfinder includes a display unit (viewing module 38) having a display screen (CRT 40) to display an image thereon (see Fig. 5 and col. 3, lines 52-56 in which an image is displayed by the CRT 40).

Gelbard further discloses a magnifier (eyepiece section 48 shown in Fig. 3) having a magnification lens (positive lens 56) to magnify an image displayed on the display screen (see col. 4, lines 5-13). *It is importantly noted that the eyepiece section 48 includes a negative lens 52, a positive lens 54 and another positive lens 56 arranged in such order that meets an inverted Galilean configuration of finder in which the positive lens (56) functions as a magnification lens by inherency; also note that the positive lens 54 added between the negative lens 52 and positive lens 56 is used for adjusting focus of the eyepiece on the CRT 40 for near-sighted and far-sighted persons.*

Gelbard does not disclose the magnifier has a polarization filter provided on an optical path thereof.

However, as taught by Muramatsu, a viewfinder is disclosed having an eyepiece section (middle section between eyecup and main body of viewfinder as shown in Figs. 6 & 8) which contains a magnifying lens (5) having a polarizing plate (6) pasted thereon (see Muramatsu; abstract and [0026]). By providing polarizing plate (6) on the optical path of the magnifying lens, reduction of contrast of the image caused by light reflected within the viewfinder chamber is suppressed as taught by Muramatsu, paragraph [0026].

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a polarization filter on the optical path of the magnifier so that reduction of contrast of the image caused by light reflected within the viewfinder chamber would be suppressed as taught by Muramatsu above.

Regarding claim 9, Muramatsu as analyzed in claim 8 further discloses the magnifier is removably installable to the display unit (liquid crystal panel 1). See Muramatsu, Figs. 2, 6 & 8, wherein the eyepiece section containing magnifying lens 5 and polarizing plate 6 is removably installable to the display unit of liquid crystal panel 1 by attaching/detaching the eyepiece section to/from the main body of the viewfinder which contains the display unit as illustrated in the drawings.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make the eyepiece section (the magnifier) in the combination of Gelbard and Muramatsu removably installable to the display unit so that the eyepiece section would be removed for cleaning or exchanging conveniently.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Toyofuku et al. (US 5,767,906) discloses a viewfinder that is removably mounted on a video camera for displaying captured images.

Fukuda et al. (US 4,959,729) discloses a portable video camera comprising a removable viewfinder.

Omae et al. (US 5,929,954) discloses a liquid crystal display device for a viewfinder attachable to a camera.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nhan T. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7371. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



NHAN T. TRAN
Patent Examiner